

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Rumania	REPORT NO.	[REDACTED]	25X1A
SUBJECT	Fortifications on Yugoslav/ Rumanian Border	DATE DISTR.	31 December 1953	
DATE OF INFO.	[REDACTED]	NO. OF PAGES	2	
PLACE ACQUIRED	[REDACTED]	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD	
		REFERENCES		

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THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: [REDACTED]

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1. During the summer of 1953 soldiers [REDACTED] were sent to do harvesting because there were not enough peasants to do the work. [REDACTED]

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Contrary to the Rumanian-Hungarian border, there are very high barbed-wire fences on the Rumanian-Yugoslav border, but they are not electrified. Several hundred meters from the fences are mine fields that go up to the first series of trenches which are occupied by troops who are kept in a constant state of alert. Behind these, in three echelons, are actual fortifications, underground basements with rotating cupolas and medium-caliber weapons. The entrance to the underground fortifications is about 40 meters in front, camouflaged on the outside. In between the fortifications are more trenches but they are unoccupied.

2. The fortifications are often inundated by rains and the rising of the Danube River, and consequently the soldiers have to stay in water up to their knees. Everyday the soldiers hear the same words: that they were the "elected ones" who had the honorable duty of defending the "fatherland". Morale is not good among the soldiers, although they receive better food than those in the case-mates. Discipline is rigorous and very often Soviet instructors arrive for inspections. Political officers teach the soldiers rules of Marxism and Stalinism during their few free hours.
3. At every kilometer along the border are lookout towers with four to six guards who come and go in pairs up to the neighboring sector. The guards are armed with machine guns and Soviet hand grenades. The guard tower is a wooden construction about 10 or 15 meters high, at the top of which is a parapet. A very powerful searchlight is on the platform and at night lights up the terrain

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- 2 -

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and a machine gun post. During the day a soldier is always stationed there with binoculars. The commandant of the guard tower is a sergeant or corporal.

4. In July 1953 a clandestine group allegedly tried to cross the Yugoslav border headed in the direction of Rumania. However, most of them had been stopped at outposts and the remainder were stopped by the Militia and Securitate agents who are stationed in large numbers in the villages and cities along the border. One person in this group succeeded in crossing the border.

underground

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